

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 300 OF 2024(SZ)

[Earlier O.A.No.1232 of 2024 (PB)]

In the matter on its own motion –SUO MOTU based on the news item published in the Hindu Newspaper dated 27.09.2024 entitled “Munnar Panchayat – Owned dumping yard continues to be haunt for wild animals” : Applicant

Versus

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram and Ors. : Respondent(s)

**REPORT ON OA 300/2024(SZ) FILED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER,
KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, DISTRICT OFFICE, IDUKKI
ON BEHALF OF THE 5th RESPONDENT**

STANDING COUNSEL FOR 5TH RESPONDENT



Adv. Rema Smrithi

Standing Counsel

NGT South Zone

**BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI**

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 300 OF 2024(SZ)

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Dated this the 13th day of August 2025

STANDING COUNSEL FOR THE 5th RESPONDENT

Adv. Rema Smrithi

Standing Counsel

NGT South Zone

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI

Original Application : 300/2024(SZ)

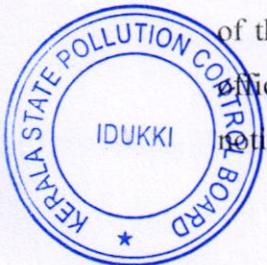
In the matter on its own motion –SUO MOTU based on the news item published in the Hindu Newspaper dated 27.09.2024 entitled “Munnar Panchayat – Owned dumping yard continues to be haunt for wild animals” : Applicant

Vs.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram and Ors. : Respondent(s)

REPORT ON OA 300/2024(SZ) FILED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER, KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, DISTRICT OFFICE IDUKKI ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER SECRETARY KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD BEFORE THE HONORABLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

1. I, Reshma Rajendran, aged 44 years, D/o Rajendran R., working as the Environmental Engineer, Kerala State Pollution Control Board (hereinafter referred to as Board), District Office, Idukki, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:
2. It is respectfully submitted that this report is filed in continuation to the report filed on 13.12.2024 concerning the waste dumping yard operated by the Munnar Grama Panchayat located at Kallar Nullathanni in the Idukki District of Kerala.
3. It is humbly submitted that certain instructions were issued to the Munnar Grama Panchayat and as compliance report was yet to be received from the Grama Panchayat, the matter was informed to the District Collector, Idukki requesting to intervene in the matter to resolve the waste management issues at the Kallar Nullathanni facility. Copy of the letter dated 15.02.2025 is produced herewith and marked as **Annexure R5(a)**
4. It is humbly submitted that due to absence of reply from the Grama Panchayat, inspection of the dumping site was conducted by the Board officials on 04.06.2025 along with the officials of the Munnar Grama Panchayat. During the inspection, many defects were noticed with regard to waste management. In light of these observations, direction was

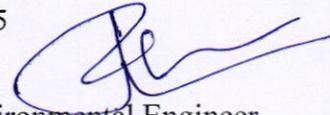


issued to the Panchayath for rectifying the defects and to report. Copy of the letter dated 05.06.2025 is produced herewith and marked as **Annexure R5(b)**

5. It is respectfully submitted that during the inspection conducted on the basis of Orders of Hon'ble NGT in OA 100/2021,164/2023,312/2024 to verify the effectiveness of waste management activities and adherence to Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 by the Technical Staffs of the Board, it was noticed that Material Collection Facility (MCF) at Nullathanni was found functioning without consent of the Board, large amount of segregated waste was found stored inside the MCF, significant amount of solid waste dumping was found outside the MCF. Accordingly, instruction was again issued to the Panchayat. Copy of the letter dated 08.07.2025 is produced herewith and marked as **Annexure R5(c)**
6. It is humbly submitted that panchayat has not submitted compliance report regarding the various instructions issued to them. As repeated noncompliance of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 was noticed and in the absence of response from the Panchayat, show cause notice was issued to the Panchayath on 12.08.2025. Copy of the show cause notice dated 12.08.2025 issued to the Panchayath is produced herewith and marked as **Annexure R5(d)**
7. It is further submitted that the District Collector and the Joint Director, Local Self Government Department (LSGD) Idukki have been apprised regarding the matter. The matter has been made available to also. Copy of the letter dated 12.08.2025 to the District Collector is produced herewith and marked as **Annexure R5(e)**
8. It is respectfully submitted that the Board will follow up on the show cause notice given to the Munnar Panchayat for efficient operation of the Kallar Nullathanni solid waste management plant and take necessary actions as per relevant Rules.

All that stated above are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated this the 13th day of August 2025

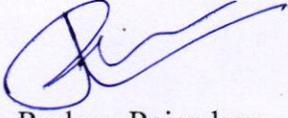


The Environmental Engineer
Kerala State Pollution Control Board
District Office Idukki
On behalf of the 5th Respondent



VERIFICATION

I, Reshma Rajendran, aged 44 years, D/o Rajendran R., now working as the Environmental Engineer in the District Office of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board at Idukki, duly authorized to file this reply on behalf of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board do hereby verify on this, the 13th day of August 2025, that all what is stated above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief and is borne out from the records maintained in our office.



Smt. Reshma Rajendran

Environmental Engineer

District Office- Idukki

Kerala State Pollution Control Board

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
Kerala State Pollution Control Board
District Office, Idukki
Essaren Building, Anakkodu Jn
Thodupuzha - 685 584



BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
SOUTHERN ZONE, CHENNAI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 300 OF 2024(SZ)

In the matter on its own motion –SUO MOTU based on the news item published in the Hindu Newspaper dated 27.09.2024 entitled “Munnar Panchayat – Owned dumping yard continues to be haunt for wild animals” : Applicant

Versus

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram and Ors. : Respondent(s)

AFFIDAVIT

I, Reshma Rajendran, aged 44 years, D/o Rajendran R, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:

I am working now as Environmental Engineer in the District office of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board at Idukki. I am competent to and duly authorized to represent the 5th respondent in the above case. Copy of the Authorisation dated 12.12.2024 is attached. I know the facts and circumstances of the cases. The factual submission made here under in paragraphs 1 to 8 of the reply are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. The legal submissions made there in are made on advice received from Counsel.

In these circumstances, it is just and necessary that this Hon'ble Tribunal may be pleased to



accept the accompanying report on file it is so humbly prayed in the interests of justice in this case.



ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER
Kerala State Pollution Control Board
District Office, Idukki
Essaren Building, Anakkode Jn
Thodupuzha - 685 584

RESHMA RAJENDRAN, DEPONENT

Solemnly affirmed and signed before me by the literate deponent

Personally known to me on this the 13th day of August 2025 at my office in Idukki.



STANDING COUNSEL FOR THE 5th RESPONDENT

Adv. Rema Smrithi

Standing Council

NGT South Zone

KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

DISTRICT OFFICE, IDUKKI

ജില്ലാ ആഫീസ്, ഇടുക്കി

ESSAREN BUILDING, AANAKOODU JN, THODUPUZHA, IDUKKI - 685 584

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LIFE
Lifestyle for Environment

PCB/IDK/GEN/COLL/06/2011

Date : 15.02.2025

From
The Environmental Engineer

To
The District Collector
Idukki

DESPATCHED
Date: 15/02/25

Sub :- NGT OA 300/2024 –SUO MOTU based on the news item published in the Hindu Newspaper dated 27.09.2024 entitled “MunnarPanchayat – Owned dumping yard continues to be haunt for wild animals -Report Regarding Case Pending Before the National Green Tribunal, Chennai

- Ref :-
- 1) That office letter no. DCIDK/722/2025-A13 dated 10.02.2025.
 - 2) This office letter no. PCB/IDK/COMP/34/09 dated 12.07.2024 sent to the Secretary, Munnar Gramapanchayat.
 - 3) This office letter no. PCB/IDK/COMP/34/09 dated 08.10.2024 sent to the Secretary, Munnar Gramapanchayat.
 - 4) This office letter no. PCB/IDK/COMP/34/09 dated 22.11.2024 sent to the Secretary, Munnar Gramapanchayat.

Madam,

This has reference to the letters cited above. This report is submitted in connection with the case pending before the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Chennai, regarding the improper waste management practices at the MunnarPanchayat-owned dumping yard located at Kallar Nallathanni, Idukki District, Kerala.

The alleged solid waste management facility is located in Kallar Nallathanni of Idukki District. The facility includes Resource Recovery Facility (RRF), Material Collection Facility (MCF) and the Munnar Green Compost Unit, which handles the composting of biodegradable waste. The solid waste generated within the jurisdiction of Munnar Panchayat, which includes both biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, is reported to be collected by the Panchayat and processed at the said facility. According to the Panchayat's records, the facility is in 50 cents of land and receives an average of 4.80 tonnes of biodegradable waste and 3.5 tonnes of non-biodegradable waste daily, vegetable waste being directed to the compost unit, while dry waste being transferred to the MCF for further processing, non-recyclable waste and recyclable plastic

True copy

RESHMA RAJENDRAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER



being segregated, bailed, and stored separately, before being handed over to Re-City, a green aid group in contract with the Panchayat for waste disposal. The biodegradable waste is then reported to be converted into fertilizer in the green compost unit, using a specialized inoculum developed to suit Munnar's unique climate conditions.

After the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, the Munnar GramaPanchayat was instructed to ensure proper treatment and disposal of solid waste. Regular interventions by the Board led to the Panchayat addressing legacy waste through bio-mining. A tender was floated and an agreement was executed by the Panchayat with the Socio-Economic Unit Foundation on 20.10.2020. Bio-mining was found almost completed during the inspection conducted by the Board Officials on 15.03.2023.

During a visit conducted by Board Officials along with the Secretary of the Environment Department and Panchayat officials on 09.07.2024 in the waste treatment plant, it was observed that bio degradable waste collected from various areas of the Panchayat was dumped in heaps within the facility premises. Consequently, the Panchayat was instructed vide ref (2) to dispose of the waste scientifically as per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and to submit a detailed report. The Secretary of the Panchayat reported the following:

- a. Windrow composting was hindered due to adverse weather, lack of inoculum, and limited market for stored waste. Operations are expected to resume once conditions improve.
- b. Steps are being taken to hand over food waste to pig farms. Measures are being taken to scientifically dispose of dumped waste and resume bio-mining.
- c. The land leased from KDHP is under consideration for acquisition by the District Collector as per the Hon'ble High Court's orders.
- e. The Panchayat plans to include solar fencing, construct a biogas plant, install a double-chamber incinerator for sanitary waste, allocate funds for CCTV cameras, and appoint a health inspector to oversee waste management operations.
- f. The Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) will be revamped in the 2024-2025 plan.

The Board directed the Panchayat vide letter dated 08.10.2024 to report the compliance status of the proposed actions vide ref (3) However, the Panchayat is yet to submit the report. In the absence of a reply from the Panchayat, an inspection was conducted on 05.11.2024. It was observed that mixed waste was deposited in the bio-mined area, old vehicles were left unattended, and both biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes were dumped in pits. Segregated plastic wastes in bales were kept and that no steps were taken to dispose them. Reports in vernacular newspapers highlighted the frequent presence of elephants in the facility area due to inadequate waste management. The Panchayat was directed to report action taken



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[Handwritten Signature]

RESHMA RAJENDRAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

vide ref (4) and a copy of the letter was made available to the Joint Director of the Panchayat. Hotels, resorts, hospitals, and other establishments under the Board's consent purview are inspected periodically to ensure compliance with waste management conditions. Instructions issued to non-complying units and the same are shared with the Panchayat for further action.

Additionally, the Honourable High Court of Kerala has initiated Suo Motu Writ Petition No. 32562 of 2024 (S) regarding human-wildlife conflict, with an interim order passed on 25th September 2024. The case is currently being heard.

It is respectfully requested that your kind attention may be bestowed on the matter mentioned above particularly the timely intervention and resolution on the waste management issues at the Kallar facility. This is for your kind information and necessary action.

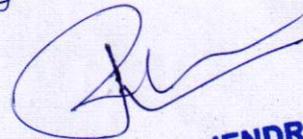
Yours faithfully



ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER



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RESHMA RAJENDRAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER





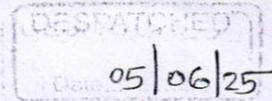
KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
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Phone : 04862 221590
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 E-mail: kspcbdukki221590@gmail.com/kspcbdukki@yahoo.com



PCB/IDK/COMP/34/09

05.06.2025



From

The Environmental Engineer

To

The Secretary
Munnar Grama Panchayat

Sub: OA 300/2024 - Solid waste Management in Munnar -Reg

- Ref:1. This office letter of even no dated 12.07.2024
 2. That office letter dated 24.07.2024
 3. This office letter of even no dated 08.10.2024
 4. Report in vernacular Newspaper dated 13.11.2024
 5. This office letter of even no dated 22.11.2024

Sir,

This has reference to the letters cited above. During the inspection conducted by the Board Officials along with the Secretary of Environment Department Secretary and Panchayat officials on 09.07.2024 at the waste treatment plant, it was noticed that the garbage collected from different areas of the panchayat was seen dumped in heaps in the premises of the waste management facility at Kallar. Accordingly, instruction was issued vide ref cited 1 to dispose of the waste scientifically as per Solid Waste management Rules, 2016 and report the matter along with the details of solid waste management provided in the units functioning within its jurisdiction, current status of Kallar Solid Waste Management facility, details of solid waste management in Munnar market, current status of windrow composting plant and information about illegal waste disposal in the vicinity of the said plant.

Vide ref cited 2 you had reported that steps were being taken to handover other food waste to the pig farm, provide solar fencing, construct biogas plant for disposing of food waste management, install a double-chamber incinerator for disposal of sanitary waste. You had also reported that the land in which the waste treatment plant is located was leased to the Panchayat.

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RESHMA RAJENDRAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER



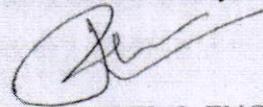
by KDHP and acquisition of this land was under the consideration of the District Collector as per the orders of the Hon'ble High Court and that CCTV cameras for monitoring the functioning of the Kallar Dumping Yard from the Panchayat Office would be installed once the acquisition is complete. You were directed to report the current status of the above mentioned to this office. The site was again inspected by the Board officials on 05.11.2024 and instruction was issued to rectify the defects noticed during the inspection vide ref cited 5 and report. The reply is yet to be received.

The site was inspected by the Board officials on 04.06.2025 and the following defects were still noticed

- a) Mixed waste consisting of biodegradable and non -biodegradable waste was found heaped within the yard premises.
- b) The discarded vehicles which were previously directed to be removed was still present at the site.
- c) The incomplete tank constructed as part of FSTP was found to be stagnated with water, plastic bottles and other waste.
- d) Heaps of sacks containing unsegregated plastic bottles, plastic covers, milk pouches were found in the shed adjacent to the yard
- e) Sacks of plastic bottles were found within the shed.
- f) Lift used for transporting bio degradable waste to the first floor (Vermi composting area) was not operating at the time of inspection.
- g) Sacks of vermi compost was found stacked.
- h) Leachate from the windrows was seen flowing across the floor into a small drain and settling within it.
- i) Adequate leachate treatment system was not found provided.
- j) Remnants of previously burned waste such as aluminium foils and ash were found in the premises.

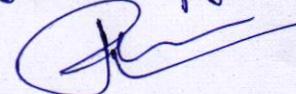
Please note that the Solid waste Management Rules, 2016 mandates certain duties for Local Bodies regarding solid waste management and that the solid waste shall be disposed of scientifically as per the said Rules. Please report the action taken to rectify the above-mentioned defects, current status of action taken as per your reply vide ref cited 2, details of the agency entrusted if any regarding non-biodegradable waste management without any delay.

Yours faithfully,



ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

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RESHMA RAJENDRAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER





KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

DISTRICT OFFICE, IDUKKI

ജില്ലാ ഓഫീസ്, ഇടുക്കി

ESSAREN BUILDING, AANAKOODU JN, THODUPUZHA, IDUKKI - 685 584

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PCB/IDK/GEN/OA-100/06/2025/ TA₃

Date: 08/07/2025

Emailed on: 16/07/2025

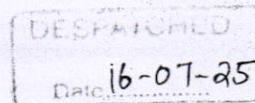
From,

The Environmental Engineer

To,

The Secretary

Munnar Grama Panchayat



Sub: Solid Waste Management -reg

Ref:1. Order of Hon'ble NGT in OA 100/2021, 164/2023, 312/2024

2. G.O(Rt)No.1673/2021/LSGD dated 06/09/2021

Sir/Madam,

Attention is invited on the subject matter. During the inspection conducted by the Technical staffs of the Board, to verify the effectiveness of waste management activities and adherence to Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016 and its amendments in the MCF/RRF following defects were noted.

1. MCF was found functioning without consent of the KSPCB
2. Number of HKS members is not enough in comparison to the number of wards
3. Large amount of segregated waste was found stored inside the MCF. Bio-Medical Wastes like syringe without needles were found stored in separate sacks.
4. Significantly large amount of solid waste dumping was found outside the MCF, including biodegradable waste and food waste, where two elephants were seen consuming the food waste during the inspection. Hazardous waste including broken CFL's and tube lights was seen dumped along with other glass waste .
5. Copy of valid agreement/MoU with the disposal facility/treatment, quantity of waste transferred to cement factories for the year 2024, destination/facility where the waste was disposed of, copy of tender notification/empanelment notification, manifest duly signed by the receiver for the year 2024, details of vehicles installed with GPS including vehicle number and bill for the year 2024 was not provided.

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RÉSHMA RAJENDRAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER



G O vide ref no.2 is enclosed herewith for necessary action. You are also directed to rectify the above mentioned drawbacks, scientifically dispose of solid waste in compliance with Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 and report compliance status to this office. Please submit the details of sanitary waste collected and disposed of if any, mode of disposal of biodegradable waste and copy of valid agreement/MoU with the disposal facility/treatment, quantity of waste transferred to cement factories for the year 2024, destination/facility where the waste was disposed of, copy of tender notification/empanelment notification, manifest duly signed by the receiver for the year 2024, details of vehicles installed with GPS including vehicle number and E way bill for the year 2024. Annual report shall be submitted to this office on or before June 30th every year.

Please recall the various instructions issued to your unit in connection with improper waste dumping. As OA 300/2024 is pending before the Hon'ble NGT, immediate action shall be taken to rectify the defects pointed out by the Board to avoid legal repercussions. Please ensure that recyclable plastic waste and e waste is handed over to Board approved agencies.

Yours faithfully



ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

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RESHMA RAJENDRAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER



KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

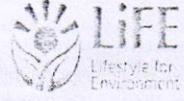
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DISTRICT OFFICE, IDUKKI

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ESSAREN BUILDING, ANAKOODU JN, THODUPUZHA, IDUKKI-685 584

എസ്റ്റാമെൻ്റ് ബിൽഡിംഗ്, ആനക്കൂട് ജംഷൻ, തൊടുപുഴ, ഇടുക്കി -685584



PCB/IDK/COMP/34/09

Date: 12.08.2025

SHOW - CAUSE NOTICE

DESPATCHED Date 12-08-25

Ref: 1. This office letter of even no dated 12.07.2024

2. That office letter dated 24.07.2024

3. This office letter of even no dated 08.10.2024

4. Report in vernacular Newspaper dated 13.11.2024

5. This office letter of even no dated 22.11.2024

6. This office letter of even no. dated 05.06.2025

7. This office letter no.PCB/IDK/GEN/OA-100/06/2025/TA; dated 08.07.2025

WHEREAS the Central Government notified the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for protection and improvement of environment and for matters connected therewith;

WHEREAS in exercise of the powers conferred by Sections 3, 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) and in supersession of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, the Central Government notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016;

WHEREAS Rule 15 of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 mandates duties to local bodies;

WHEREAS Rule 15 (v) and 24 (2) of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 mandates certain duties to local bodies including facilitate construction, operation and maintenance of solid waste processing facilities;

WHEREAS as per Rule 22 (1) of Solid Waste Management Rules, suitable sites for setting up solid waste processing facilities are to be identified;

WHEREAS as per Rule 22(3) of the Solid Waste Management Rules, suitable sites for setting up solid waste processing facility and sanitary land facilities are to be procured;

WHEREAS as per Rules 15(b) and 22(5) of Solid Waste Management Rules, door to door collection of segregated waste and its transportation in covered vehicles to processing or disposing facility shall be ensured;

WHEREAS as per Rules 22(8) of Solid Waste Management Rules, solid waste processing facilities have to be installed by local bodies and census towns below 1 lakh population

8.04.2019;

Handwritten signature and 'True copy' text

RESHMA RAJENDRAN ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER



WHEREAS as per Rules 22(10) of Solid Waste Management Rules, common or regional landfill is to be set up by all local bodies and census towns under 0.5 million population for the disposal of permitted waste under the Rules;

WHEREAS as per Rules 15(zh) of Solid Waste Management Rules, land filling or dumping of mixed waste shall be stopped soon after the time line for setting up and operationalisation of sanitary landfill as specified in Rule 23 of Solid Waste Management Rules is over;

WHEREAS as per Rules 15 (zj) of Solid Waste Management Rules, all old open dumpsites and existing operational dump sites are to be investigated and analysed for their potential of biomining and bio-remediation and wheresoever feasible and to take necessary actions to bio- mine or bio-remediate the sites;

WHEREAS as per Rules 15 (zk) of Solid Waste Management Rules, in absence of the potential of bio-mining and bio-remediation of dumpsite, it shall be scientifically capped as per landfill capping norms to prevent further damage to the environment;

WHEREAS as per Rules 22(11) of Solid Waste Management Rules, bio remediation or capping of old and abandoned dumpsite shall be done;

WHEREAS under Section 24(1) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) 1974 Act "no person shall knowingly cause or permit to enter any poisonous toxic or polluting matter whether directly or indirectly into any stream or well or river or on land";

WHEREAS the Hon'ble National Tribunal (NGT), in O.A 606/2028, directed all local bodies including Munnar Panchayat, to implement the SWM Rules,2016 by establishing adequate infrastructure for the collection, segregation, processing, and disposal of solid waste in a time bound manner;

WHEREAS, instructions were issued to the Munnar Panchayat to ensure proper treatment and scientific disposal of solid waste;

WHEREAS regular interventions by the Board led to the panchayat addressing legacy waste through bio mining;

WHEREAS an agreement was executed by the panchayat with the Social Economic Unit Foundation;

WHEREAS during the inspection conducted by the Board officials on 15.03.2023, bio-mining was found almost completed;

WHEREAS during the inspection conducted by the Board Officials along with the Secretary of Environment Department, Secretary of Munnar Gramapanchayath and Panchayat officials on 09.07.2024 at the waste treatment plant, it was noticed that the garbage collected from different areas of the panchayat was seen dumped in heaps in the premises of the waste management facility at Kallar;

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WHEREAS instruction was issued vide ref cited 1 to dispose of the waste scientifically as per Solid Waste management Rules, 2016 and report the matter along with the details of solid waste management in the units functioning within its jurisdiction, current status of Kallar Solid Waste Management facility, details of solid waste management in Munnar market, current status of windrow plant and information about illegal waste disposal in the vicinity of the said plant;

WHEREAS vide ref cited 2, you had reported that steps were being taken to handover other food waste to the pig farm, to scientifically dispose dumped waste and resume biomining and about plans of panchayath like solar fencing, construction of biogas plant, installation of a double-chamber incinerator for disposal of sanitary waste, installation of CCTV cameras for monitoring the functioning of the Kallar Dumping Yard from the Panchayat Office;

WHEREAS vide ref cited 3, instruction was issued to report the compliance status of action proposed by the panchayath;

WHEREAS in the absence of reply from the panchayath, the site was again inspected by the Board officials on 05.11.2024 and found mixed waste consisting of biodegradable and non -biodegradable waste dumped in the previously biomined area;

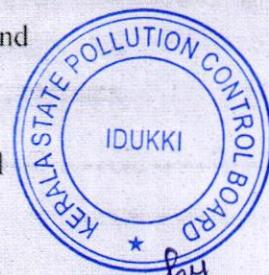
WHEREAS newspaper reports were seen published in vernacular newspaper vide ref cited 4 regarding frequent presence of elephants in the Kallar Dumping Yard ;

WHEREAS instruction was issued vide ref cited(5)to rectify the defects noticed during the inspection and report;

WHEREAS as no reply was received, the inspection was again conducted by the Board officials on 04.06.2025 to verify the status of compliance;

WHEREAS during, the inspection, the following defects were still noticed:

- a. Mixed waste consisting of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste was found heaped within the yard premises.
- b. The discarded vehicles which were previously directed to be removed were still present at the site.
- c. The incomplete tank constructed as part of FSTP was still found to be stagnated with water, plastic bottles and other waste.
- d. Heaps of sacks containing unsegregated plastic bottles, plastic covers, milk pouches were found in the shed adjacent to the yard
- e. Lift used for transporting biodegradable waste to the first floor (Vermicomposting area) was not operating at the time of inspection.
- f. Sacks of vermi compost was found stacked.
- g. Leachate from the windrows was seen flowing across the floor into a small drain and settling within it.



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h. Adequate leachate treatment system was not found provided.

i. Remnants of previously burned waste such as aluminum foils and ash were found in the premises.

WHEREAS you were again directed vide ref cited 6, to report the action taken to rectify the above-mentioned defects, details of the agency entrusted if any regarding non-biodegradable waste management and current status of action taken as per that office letter cited (2);

WHEREAS no reply was received in this office yet;

WHEREAS during the inspection conducted on the basis of orders of Hon'ble NGT in OA 100/2021, 164/2023, 312/2024 to verify the effectiveness of waste management activities and adherence to Solid Waste Management Rules 2016 by the Technical Staff of the Board, MCF was found functioning without consent of the Board, large amount of segregated waste was found stored inside the MCF, significant amount of solid waste dumping was found outside the MCF etc;

WHEREAS instruction was issued vide ref cited (7);

AND WHEREAS despite repeated directions to report the compliance of rectification of the defects and adequate opportunities for compliance, the panchayath has failed to comply with many instructions issued from this office;

NOW THERE FORE you are hereby directed to show cause within 15 days why the Board shall not proceed against you as per the relevant Act and Rules.

Dated this the 12th day of August 2025.

For and on behalf of the
KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD



ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

To

The Secretary
Munnar Gramapanchayath




RESHMA RAJENDRAN
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER





KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

കേരള സംസ്ഥാന മലിനീകരണ നിയന്ത്രണ ബോർഡ്

DISTRICT OFFICE, IDUKKI

ജില്ലാ ഓഫീസ്, ഇടുക്കി

ESSAREN BUILDING, AANAKOODU JN, THODUPUZHA, IDUKKI - 685 584

എസ്സാരൻ ബിൽഡിംഗ്, ആനക്കൂട് ജംഗ്ഷൻ, തൊടുപുഴ, ഇടുക്കി - 685 584



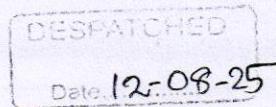
LIFE
Lifestyle for
Environment

PCB/IDK/GEN/COLL/06/2011

Date :12.08.2025

From

The Environmental Engineer



To

The District Collector
Idukki

Sub :- NGT OA 300/2024 --SUO MOTU based on the news item published in the Hindu Newspaper dated 27.09.2024 entitled "MunnarPanchayat - Owned dumping yard continues to be haunt for wild animals -Report Regarding Case Pending Before the National Green Tribunal, Chennai

Ref :-

- 1) That office letter no. DCIDK/722/2025-A13 dated 10.02.2025.
- 2) This office letter no. PCB/IDK/COMP/34/09 dated 12.07.2024 addressed to the Secretary, Munnar Gramapanchayat.
- 3) This office letter no. PCB/IDK/COMP/34/09 dated 08.10.2024 addressed to the Secretary, Munnar Gramapanchayat.
- 4) This office letter no. PCB/IDK/COMP/34/09 dated 22.11.2024 addressed to the Secretary, Munnar Gramapanchayat.
- 5) This office letter of even no dated 15.02.2025
- 6) This office letter no. PCB/IDK/COMP/34/09 dated 05.06.2025 addressed to the Secretary, Munnar Grama panchayat.
- 7) This office letter no.PCB/IDK/GEN/OA-100/06/2025/TA3 dated 08.07.2025 addressed to the Secretary, Munnar Grama panchayat.
- 8) Show Cause notice no. PCB/IDK/COMP/34/09 dated 12.08.2025

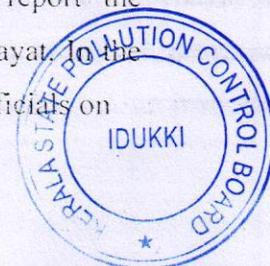
Sir,

This has reference to the letters cited above regarding the improper waste management practices at the Munnar Panchayat-owned dumping yard located at Kallar Nallathanni, Idukki District, Kerala. In continuation to this office letter addressed to your good self, the following observations have been made in connection with the Munnar Panchayat-owned dumping yard located at Kallar Nallathanni.

The Board directed the Panchayat vide letter dated 22.11.2024 to report the compliance status vide ref (4). However, no response was received from the Panchayat. In the absence of a reply from the Panchayat, an inspection was conducted by the Board officials on

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ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER



4.06.2025 to verify the status of compliance. It was observed that mixed waste consisting of biodegradable and non -biodegradable waste was found heaped within the yard premises, discarded vehicles which were previously directed to be removed were still present at the site, incomplete tank constructed as part of FSTP was still found to be stagnated with water, plastic bottles and other waste & heaps of sacks containing unsegregated plastic bottles, plastic covers, milk pouches were found in the shed adjacent to the yard, lift used for transporting bio degradable waste to the first floor (Vermi composting area) was not operating at the time of inspection, sacks of vermi compost was found stacked, leachate from the windrows was seen flowing across the floor into a small drain and settling within it, adequate leachate treatment system was not found provided and remnants of previously burned waste such as aluminum foils and ash were found in the premises. Accordingly, the Panchayat was again directed vide ref cited (6) to report the action taken to rectify the above-mentioned defects, details of the agency entrusted if any regarding non-biodegradable waste management and current status of action taken. No reply has been received so far from the panchayat.

Inspection was conducted by the Technical Staff of the Board on the basis of orders of Hon'ble NGT in OA 100/2021,164/2023,312/2024 to verify the effectiveness of waste management activities and adherence to Solid Waste Management Rules 2016,certain defects were noticed and instruction was issued vide ref cited (7) to rectify the defects and report. Despite the repeated directions to report the compliance of rectification of the defects and adequate opportunities for compliance, the panchayath has failed to comply to the instructions issued from this office. Showcause notice has been issued to the Grama panchayat stating the defects. (Copy enclosed);

It is respectfully requested that your kind attention may be bestowed on the matter mentioned above particularly the timely intervention and resolution on the waste management issues at the Kallar facility. This is for your kind information and necessary action.

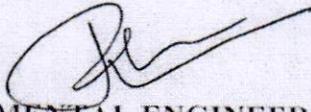
Yours faithfully



Copy to



The Joint Director,
LSGD, Idukki


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True copy


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ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER